United Nations Environment Programme

Distr.
LIMITED

UNEP/GC.16/L.4
21 March 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GOVERNING COUNCIL
Sixteenth session
Nairobi, 20-31 May 1991
Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORTS

Suggested Action by the Governing Council

1. The present document contains suggested action by the Governing Council on the state-of-the-environment reports for 1990 and 1991 (UNEP/GC.16/8 and UNEP/GC.16/9), as well as proposals for the 1992 and 1993 state-of-the-environment reports.

2. The Council may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

A. The State-of-the-Environment Report 1990, "Children and the Environment"

The Governing Council,

Guided by the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as by the Declaration of United Nations Conference of Human Environment, held at Stockholm in 1972,

Recall the various articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 20 November 1989, and the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s, adopted by the World Summit for Children at New York on 30 September 1990,

Consider the report of the Executive Director on the state-of-the-environment for 1990 (UNEP/GC.16/8);

1. Emphasize that inter-generational equity implies that:

   (a) Each generation is required to conserve the natural and cultural resource base, so that it does not unduly restrict the options of future generations;

   (b) Each generation is required to maintain the quality of the planet so that it is passed on in no worse condition than it was received;

(c) Each generation should provide its members with equitable access to the benign legacy of past generations;

2. Emphasize also that poverty, underdevelopment and environmental degradation are the main causes of mortality, morbidity and stunted growth and development of children;

3. Stress the fact that children have the greatest stake in the preservation of the environment and its judicious management for sustainable development as their survival and development depends on it;

4. Draw the attention of all Governments to the Executive Director's report on children and environment;

5. Request the Executive Director to accord high priority within the programme of the United Nations Environment Programme to activities directly related to the achievement of relevant goals and strategies enunciated in the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration in the 1990s. In particular, priority should be given to:

(a) Formal and informal environmental education of children;

(b) Programmes to enhance the environmental awareness of children;

(c) Programmes to the enhance the environmental awareness of mothers and the relevance of environmental protection measures for their health and well-being and for that of their children;

6. Further request the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its seventeenth session in 1993 on the relevance of different activities and achievements of UNEP to the health and well-being of children.

B. The State-of-the-Environment Report 1991, "The State of the World Environment - 1991"

Consider the report of the Executive Director on the State-of-the-Environment for 1991 (UNEP/GC.16/9),

1. Take note of the report of the Executive Director on the state of the world environment - 1991;

2. Call to the attention of all Governments the salient features and findings of the report;

3. Request the Executive Director within the environment programme:

(a) To continue to accord high priority to the work on biological diversity and biotechnology with a view to arriving at an international legal instrument for the conservation and rational use of biological diversity within a broad socio-economic context;

(b) To accelerate activities related to the environmentally sound management of shared water resources;

(c) To continue to develop and strengthen measures to facilitate improved protection and sustainable development of ocean and coastal resources and to address more effectively the serious growing problem of land-based sources of marine pollution.

C. 1992 and 1993 State-of-the-Environment Reports

Recall its decision 13/9 D, of 24 May 1985, in which it decided, inter alia, that the state-of-the-environment reports should alternate in successive years between a report on economic and social aspects of the environmental data and assessment,

Also recall its decision 15/3 A, of 23 May 1989 in which it requested the Executive Director to prepare, inter alia, a comprehensive report on the state of the environment, and a brief analytical report for 1993 on changes in the state of the world environment since 1972,

Note the Executive Director's Progress Report on the comprehensive state-of-the-environment report (20 years after Stockholm) (UNEP/GC.16/7),

1. Request the Executive Director to prepare the state-of-the-environment report for 1992 on one of the following issues: (a) Poverty and Environment, or (b) Trade and Environment;

2. Further request the Executive Director to continue the preparations for the comprehensive state-of-the-environment report covering the twenty years since the Stockholm Conference, to be submitted to the Council at its seventeenth regular session in 1993.